

The Carlsbad Current

TWENTY-FOURTH YEAR.

CARLSBAD, NEW MEXICO, FRIDAY, JANUARY 21, 1916.

NUMBER 11.

BANDIT IS EXECUTED

EXECUTION SQUAD FOREMAN EXECUTED.

Baca-Valles, Notorious Bandit and Villa Butcher, Pays Penalty in Juarez.

Man Who Had Officiated at Many Similar Ceremonies Hears Grim Order That Sends Him Into Eternity.

—El Paso Times, Wednesday.

With his back to a cottonwood tree, behind which his hands were tightly bound with coarse rope, Colonel Miguel Baca-Valles, the official executioner of the Villa army, was executed at 5 o'clock yesterday morning at a point 100 yards from the National Railway station in Juarez, where stood a special train laden with sleeping American refugees. Only one shot was used by the Carranza execution squad to kill the prisoner, who met his death with a stoicism characteristic of his Indian ancestry.

Execution Before Dawn.

It was the darkest hour of the morning—just before dawn—when an escort of twenty soldiers, led by Captain Alejandro Reginio, filed past the railway station to a water tank station a block away, where the prisoner had been under guard for five hours. His guards at the tank said that he had spoken only six words during the night. They were: "May God be merciful to me!" He smoked cigarettes continuously during that time.

When the execution squad arrived Colonel Baca-Valles rose heavily in his feet and came forth from the little hut without a word. Two blocks away, on the bank of a muddy irrigation canal, stood a gnarled cottonwood tree.

The March to Death.

Toward it marched the military escort with the prisoner, hands bound, in their midst. The moon showed almost blood-red behind a bank of clouds, but gave little light. Electric globes twinkled faintly through the morning mist at the station 300 feet away. A searching chill was in the air, but the prisoner did not tremble, though he wore no coat. Instead, he had on a grey coat-sweater.

Once, on the short walk, he stumbled and nearly fell. His 240-pound body was carried along easily. His black hair, curly and thick, was uncovered. When he stumbled, he recovered quickly and looked around him.

Bound to Cottonwood Tree.

Under Captain Reginio's direction, he was quickly bound to the cottonwood tree. The captain then stepped up to him and asked if he wished a handkerchief placed over his eyes. His answer was:

"No me importa. No soy coharde." (What do I care? I'm no coward.) So the handkerchief was left off.

As he stood there bound he faced directly towards the Parrel refugee special, where American men, women and children, who had arrived in the night from Chihuahua, lay asleep. The refugee train was a block away. Two blocks further, but still in sight, were three boxcars on a sidetrack. In one of these lay the shrouded corpse of General Jose Rodriguez, another Villa leader, with whom Baca-Valles was intimate. Rodriguez had been executed Thursday at Madera, Chih., 150 miles south of the point where Baca-Valles was captured.

Turning from the prisoner after he had scorned to be blindfolded, Captain Reginio pointed to one of the escort and gave a quiet order. The soldier unslung his rifle from his shoulder, slipped several shells into the magazine and stepped forward facing the condemned man. When he was within arm's reach he halted and brought the rifle to his shoulder. The muzzle was within six inches of the prisoner's breast and pointed to his heart.

"No, dos, tres," counted the captain. As the third word was uttered the single executioner pulled the trigger and the Villa conolei crumpled against the tree without so much as a moan. A splash of blood spurted from his breast. Death came in less than a minute. The corpse was untied and placed on a stretcher.

Yesterday morning it was displayed in the railway station before a crowd of curious Mexicans and Americans. It was taken to Chihuahua for exhibition, together with that of General Jose Rodriguez, whose corpse was also on exhibition during the day.

Colonel Baca-Valles was captured Saturday near Palomas, Chihuahua, close to the border at Columbus, N. M., by a detachment of Carranza troops. His second officer, Lieutenant Colonel Enrique Sianeros, was also made prisoner, and, according to Carranza officials, is now en route to Juarez. He will be executed immediately upon his arrival. Eight soldiers, captured with

Baca-Valles and Sianeros, were executed on the spot.

Implicated in Santa Ysabel Affair. Carranza officers here profess to believe Baca-Valles took a leading part in the Santa Ysabel massacre, and was trying to escape from Mexico to the United States when captured. His record is a bloody one. For two years he held the position of "official executioner" for General Francisco Villa. He was in command of the execution squad, and it is estimated that he has given orders that have sent seven or eight hundred men to death.

Bodies Taken to Chihuahua. The bodies of Baca-Valles and Rodriguez were taken to Chihuahua yesterday afternoon, leaving Juarez at 3 o'clock over the National railway line. They will be publicly exhibited at the state capital as a warning to all of the fate in store for men caught in arms against the de facto government of Mexico.

"Foreman of the Firing Squad." Baca-Valles, one of the most notorious of the Villa followers, though but 24 years of age, is said to have more deaths to his credit than any single man in the now scattered northern army. He long occupied the position of chief executioner, or "foreman of the firing squad," in the Villa army, and many of the victims now lying in the graveyards at Juarez and other places bid farewell to earth with Baca-Valles hoarse command to fire ringing in their ears.

AMERICANS ESCAPE

THE FIRING SQUAD BY PAYING A THOUSAND.

El Paso, Tex., Jan. 19.—Dr. E. R. Petakey, of the National Mines & Smelter Co., Magistral, Durango, one of the refugees who arrived early today, told of having been told up with six other Americans, waiting to be shot by the followers of General Bracamontes, who shot up the camp and took everything in sight about a week ago. The cutting of the wires to Parral at the time prevented an appeal for help. The Americans were saved on payment of 1,000 pesos.

"Bracamontes arrived with a rush one morning last week," said Dr. Petakey. "He was in the town and shooting it up and looting the stores before we knew he was there. When we scrambled into our clothes, we found bandit leader had secured the cashier, Mr. Bindell, and taken \$300 from him in gold. Bracamontes said he had come to kill all gringos. Bindell, who speaks good Spanish, talked to him all morning, but made no impression and we were ordered lined up about 2:30 in the afternoon, to be executed. Bindell kept up negotiations for two hours while we waited in line.

"Finally, Bindell persuaded Bracamontes to accept 1,000 pesos and the line was told to go home.

"The bandits left for Ende about fifteen miles south. We got word to the Carranza army and they cut across country and lay in ambush on the sides of the mountain to annihilate the bandits. But no woman there, so we believe, sent word to the bandits and they were prepared for the ambush. Only three of the band were killed and four taken prisoner.

"When we left Magistral, we heard that two or three hundred troops were coming north from the Gomez Palacio district. Whether they were Carranza or Villa men, we never heard." "On the trip north to the border at Parral," Dr. Petakey said, "we met General Petronella Hernandez at Parral, who supplied the train with a guard of 50 soldiers and mounted machine guns fore and aft of the train. He also permitted and saw to it that every man on the refugee train had a rifle and plenty of ammunition. He said when the mining men returned, he would supply them with ammunition for self-protection."

COBB'S STORY OF A SAFE CONDUCT IS TO BE INVESTIGATED.

Washington, Jan. 18.—Further inquiry into the circumstantial story which came in a dispatch from Collector Cobb, at El Paso, and which told how the American mining men, killed by bandits near Santa Ysabel, Mex., had been assured safe conduct by Carranza authorities, was being made today by state department officials.

The outcome of the inquiry is being awaited with unusual interest, for upon it may hinge whether the Carranza government is to be held responsible for the death of the Americans.

Collector Cobb's dispatch and any evidence collected will be included in data sent this week to the senate foreign relations committee in response to Senator Fall's resolution calling for information regarding conditions in Mexico.

VILLA AN OUTLAW.

Washington, Jan. 19.—General Carranza telegraphed the Mexican embassy here today that he had formally proclaimed Francisco Villa an outlaw and authorized his execution by any citizen of the republic who might encounter him.

LOWER HOUSE OF CONGRESS PASSES A LIBERAL LEASING BILL

Under Provisions of Act 700,000,000 Acres May Be Had by Payment of Annual Fees to Government.

Washington, Jan. 15.—The second of the administration conservation measures, a bill under which more than 700,000,000 acres of public lands would be thrown open for lease by private interests, passed the house today without roll call. Immediately afterward the 640-acre homestead bill was taken up with a prospect that it would be passed early next week.

Opposition to the land lease bill was confined principally to far western representatives as in the case of the water power leasing bill passed last week. Led by Representative Mondell, of Wyoming, a group of members from the western states opposed particularly in the debate today the provision under which the vast oil resources on public lands in California and Wyoming would be developed under federal leases. They con-

tend that each state should be permitted to regulate development of such resources within its borders.

Representatives Baker and Church of California objected to a section giving relief to California oil promoters affected by the land withdrawals under the Taft administration as not being liberal enough. All who filed on land prior to July 3, 1910, the date of the congressional withdrawal, would be granted preferential leases provided they gave evidence of having attempted to develop their claims. The presence of a well or evidence that they were working on January 1, 1914, would be accepted as proof.

In its report the lands committee declared that the lands opened which include approximately 450,000,000 tons of coal and \$90,000,000 worth of phosphates and unknown quantities of oil, gas and mineral fertilizers, should be developed immediately. The Alaskan coal fields and oil lands in naval reserves are not affected by the bill.

CARLSBAD PROJECT ANNUAL CROP REPORT

Short, but Interesting, Statistics of Project Progress.

The official live stock report of the Carlsbad Project for the year ending December 31, 1915, is just completed. The figures were obtained from the farmers themselves by government employees who visited every farm in the project for the purpose. The Carlsbad Project is operated by the Reclamation Service and contains about 25,000 acres of irrigable land. About 15,000 acres were under cultivation the past year, there not being enough settlers to occupy the entire irrigable area under the project.

This live stock report tells a remarkable story of progress in the Carlsbad Project this year. January 1, 1915, there were 462 head of cattle on the farms. At the close of the year 1915 there were 4320 head, of which 639 head are classed as dairy cattle. The rest are beef cattle, some of which are on feed for market, while others are being wintered on the farms to be returned to the range in the spring.

Only ninety-six head of sheep were on the project farms on January 1, 1915. By December 31, 1915, the sheep had increased to 5096 head. A part of the sheep is in feed lots, A. J. Crawford among others, finishing about 2,000 lambs. Others are old ewes that will go to market in the summer after producing a lamb crop and still others are being wintered on the farms and in the spring will go

also shows an increase in farm equipment of \$26,670. On the whole this report shows a remarkable advance in the live stock line in the Carlsbad Project during the year 1915. Development is along correct lines and there is generally prosperity in sight. A. M. HOVE.

DIPHTHERIA IN ROSWELL.

—Tuesday's Roswell News.

Roswell has a case of diphtheria in its midst in the person of little Mary, the 4-year-old child of Mr. and Mrs. Marcus Jones, who reside at 608 East Third street, who was stricken with the malady last week following her association with a child from Hagerman who visited the Jones family here on Thursday of last week.

It appears from the statement of County Health Officer Dr. W. T. Joyner, and the attending physician, at the bedside of the stricken child, that a little daughter of Al Jones, of Hagerman visited the family of Marcus Jones in this city last Thursday and remained over night a bedfellow with little Mary. The child from Hagerman was not known to have been exposed to the malady, but the Jones family at that place had been under quarantine on suspicion, the quarantine being placed by city and deputy county health officer, Dr. W. T. Brown of that place. The quarantine was raised on the family after a considerable lapse of days, as no cases had developed. The child came to

NEWS OF DIST. COURT

RODRIGUEZ WAS NOT CAPTURED BY THE CARRANZA SOLDIERS.

El Paso, Texas, Jan. 17.—General Rodriguez, the bandit chief, was captured by Mexican employes of the Madera company, Ltd., not by Carranza soldiers, according to some of the Mormon colonists who arrived last night.

They said Rodriguez had sent a messenger to Madera to demand a ransom for the town. The messenger was well treated and General Rodriguez was invited to enter the town for a conference. With a few men, he entered and was placed in jail with his men. Afterward, his captors went through the district, gathering in Rodriguez' men, about twenty-five in all, it was said. They were then turned over to Carranza soldiers. Rodriguez was promptly executed.

There are now 400 Carranza troops at Nuevo Casas Grandas and Colonia Dublan, adjoining, it was said, and three hundred at Pearson.

According to American Consul Edwards, at Juarez, the Mormons feel that they are receiving ample protection and do not wish to leave. Edwards said he had requested J. C. Hays, manager of the Babricora ranch near Madera, to indicate the place where Peter Keane, an English employe of the Hearst interests, was killed by bandits. n receiving this information, he said, the Carranza general, Trevino, will be asked to procure the body. It is hardly possible that the body can be recovered, unless it has been buried.

L. A. TOMLINSON DIES.

L. A. Tomlinson died from paralysis at his home on Greene's Highlands early yesterday morning, January 20, after a lingering illness of about nine months. Mr. and Mrs. Tomlinson have lived in Carlsbad thirteen years and Mr. Tomlinson was employed looking after the city pumping plant at the time he received the first slight stroke of paralysis from which he soon recovered and resumed his duties, but a second one confined him to his bed and he has long been as an infant, with the constant care of his faithful wife ever at his bedside. In his prime he was a splendid man, standing about five feet nine inches and weighing 175 pounds. He was born at St. Louis, Missouri, April 9, 1844, and lived less, a few months, 72 years. His parents moved from St. Louis to Springfield, Illinois, when he was a small baby, at the age of eighteen he enlisted in the tenth Illinois cavalry and served two years in the Union army and was a member of the G. A. R. At twenty years of age he left home for Mississippi and he was in various places after that in Missouri and Texas and in 1871 he had a position in a general store in Milford, Texas, where he worked three years.

He was married to his present wife who was Miss Sally, the daughter of Dr. F. K. Smith, in Waco, Texas, February 1874, and they shared together the joys and sorrows alike over forty years of married life. Several children were born to them, and all died in their infancy, but one daughter, Nannie. He leaves besides his faithful wife a daughter to mourn his loss, three sisters and two brothers, a brother and sister in Illinois, a sister in Nebraska and one in Abilene. He was an Odd Fellow and the local lodge of Carlsbad has been untiring in its efforts to relieve his sufferings some of the brothers being at his bedside every night for the past eight months. He was also a member of the Episcopal church, from which his remains will be buried at 2:30 this afternoon under the auspices of the Odd Fellows lodge from among whom the pall bearers were chosen as follows: U. G. Grantham, Joe L. Andrews, U. S. Hamilton, L. E. Hayes, J. E. Lavery and J. R. Leck. The funeral sermon will be by Rev. F. W. Pratt and the music will be by the choir and will be hymns chosen by deceased.

RESULT OF WATER USERS' ANNUAL ELECTION.

At the annual election held by the Pecos Water Users' Association on January 18, 1916, there were cast a total vote of 10041. The question of interest was the election of a Board of Directors either for or against the new contract entered into for the sale of lands at cost price by the Association. The strongest vote shown against the proposition was 2241, and this only developed in one district.

The new Board consists of: James E. Wallace, Lu Huerta district.

James Little and I. S. Osborne, of the Carlsbad district.

Simeon Webster and Henry Tipton, Otis district.

Wm. E. Rose and Chas. P. Pardue, Loving district.

Scott Etter and J. A. Hartshorn, Malaga district.

In the reorganization of the new board, James E. Wallace was chosen president; W. E. Rose, vice-president; and Scott Etter, secretary and treasurer.

L. E. Foster and Chas. A. May returned Monday evening from Tucson, Arizona, where they attended a conference of operation and maintenance officers called by I. D. O'Donnell, of the reclamation service.

January 13.

W. P. Riley vs. Drs. A. C. White, et als, dismissed at plaintiff's cost.

State National Bank vs. L. S. Cleveland, et al, dismissed at cost of plaintiff.

State National Bank vs. J. T. Price, et al, dismissed at cost of plaintiff.

State National Bank vs. Jose Madrid, plea not guilty.

State vs. Pascual Lopez; rape; dismissed by state.

State vs. Walter McDonald; selling liquor to minor; fined \$50 and costs, after plea of guilty.

S. C. Humphreys vs. N. P. Neillis, and M. F. Bromley; judgment by default.

State vs. Charley Lowrey; for assault with intent to kill; continued for term.

State vs. J. L. Toole; transporting neat cattle out of the state without inspection; continued for term.

State vs. C. Jones; selling liquor without license; continued.

State vs. P. P. Mann and A. R. McKinney; larceny of turkeys; set for Wednesday, 19th of January.

State vs. Jno. Doe Yonkum; practicing denistry without a license; passed.

State vs. S. P. Henry; malicious mischief and maliciously injuring mortgaged property; passed.

January 14th.

State vs. Jack Filster; plea of guilty withdrawn and plea of not guilty substituted; defendant fined \$75 and costs and committed to jail until fine and costs are paid.

State vs. Ynez Rodriguez; larceny sentenced to 12 and not more than 14 months in the pen.

State vs. C. D. Ham; carrying deadly weapons, passed.

State vs. Aristo Marguez; tried before jury Wednesday.

State vs. John F. Warren; selling liquor to minor; fined \$75 and costs; total \$150.

State vs. Geo. McClure; sixty days in jail.

State vs. A. D. J. Hooper; passed.

State vs. Barney Hopkins and William Murray; unlawfully killing horse; continued to next term.

State vs. Jno. I. Bryan; unlawfully discharging pistol within limits of a settlement; passed. Same; unlawfully killing neat cattle; continued.

State vs. Julian McElroy and Francis Kelly; sentenced to reform school for not less than four and not more than five years; sentence suspended during odd behavior.

C. F. C. Ladd vs. E. T. Carter, R. R. Carter and W. E. Carter; motion of defendants withdrawn.

The regular venire of the petit jury as finally made up follows:

1. J. O. Richards.

2. H. M. Chilcoat.

3. Earl Hardin.

4. W. S. Beck.

5. G. W. Fullingim.

6. J. J. Harper.

7. E. Richardson.

8. W. P. Byrd.

9. J. W. Berry.

10. H. C. Sands.

11. F. G. Snow.

12. W. F. Kruse.

13. V. E. Fatheree.

14. Henry Collins.

15. C. J. Walter.

16. O. N. Blair.

17. J. T. Collins.

18. Arthur Forehand.

19. C. S. Grammer.

20. W. G. Force.

21. Wells Benson.

22. F. G. Tracy.

23. W. R. Owen.

24. E. S. Kirkpatrick.

State vs. Jose Madrid; for burglary and larceny. Tried before jury which returned the following verdict:

"We, the jury, find the defendant guilty as charged in the first count of the indictment and recommend the clemency of the court."

"W. R. OWEN, Foreman."

Attorneys for defendant, Osburn & Robinson, moved for a new trial.

Price Henry was dismissed from further appearance at court and bondsman released.

The sum of \$1,800 was transferred from the county salary fund to the court fund.

THE TURKEY CASE.

The famous "turkey case" from Artesia is on trial today, the following jury having been secured Wednesday evening:

E. S. Kirkpatrick, W. P. Ryrd, E. Richardson, Fred Rohmer, Henry Collins, C. J. Walter, W. S. Beck, Earl Hardin, Arthur Forehand, J. J. Harper, H. C. Sands, and E. A. Roberts.

Chas. Gilbert, of Roswell, assisted by J. B. Atkinson, are the attorneys for the defense and the district attorney is prosecuting.

The case grew out of the theft of sixty-one turkeys from E. P. McCormick, residing four miles northwest from Artesia the 29th of last May.

Mr. McCormick some time about the last of June found his turkeys in the possession of one A. R. McKinney and Mann, living about one and a half miles north of Artesia. He replevined the turkeys, the parties alleging they had purchased them from a Mexican in the evening when it was too dark to distinguish who he was. They gave bond and got possession of the turkeys and a trial occurred in justice court when the owners showed he had the turkeys marked with white thread, by tying same around the wing. The prosecuting witness, was on the stand yesterday forenoon and others were examined in the afternoon. The case will probably go to the jury tonight.